

1. A substantially rigid, force-sensing joystick, comprising:
a user-manipulable handle coupled to an electrically conductive drive plate; and
an electrically conductive surface spaced apart from the drive plate,
wherein one or both of the drive plate and the conductive surface are segmented
to produce multiple capacitive sensing elements, such that a force applied to the handle
causes a slight deflection of the drive plate, enabling the force to be computed in at least
two dimensions through changes detectable in the capacitive sensing elements.
2. The rigid, force-sensing joystick of claim 1, including four segments.
3. The rigid, force-sensing joystick of claim 1, further including one or more
electrical controls on the handle.
4. The rigid, force-sensing joystick of claim 1, wherein the electrically
conductive drive plate is non-segmented, and the electrically conductive surface forms
part of a printed-circuit board having a segmented pattern.
5. The rigid, force sensing joystick of claim 4, requiring no soldered
connections to the circuit board.